

Message Text

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ACTION MMO-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AODE, FN, NA

SUBJECT: MODE-DEA PROPOSAL TO OPEN OFFICE

REF: A) STATE 220383, B) CURACAO 0233

1. JUSTICE MINISTER LEO CHANCE TELEPHONED ME AUGUST 31 TO PASS ON RESULTS OF HIS CANVASS OF GNA MINISTERS' VIEWS RE SUBJECT REFTEL. HE SAID HE HAD FOUND VERY LITTLE SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA AMONG ANY OF THE MINISTERS HE HAD CONSULTED, AND ALTHOUGH HE HIMSELF HAD INITIALLY FAVORED THE PROJECT (THIS SQUARES WITH OUR OWN IMPRESSIONS), HE NOW FELT THAT IT WOULD BE INADVISABLE PURSUE MATTER AT THIS TIME.

2. I HAD EARLIER DISCUSSED THE STATUS OF BACHRACH APPROACH LAST MAY TO CHANCE/OLDENBOOM WITH CARACAS DEA REP LEE PHILLIPS, WHO VISITED POST AUGUST 23 TO 27. PHILLIPS INFORMED ME OF BACHRACH'S REPLACEMENT, AND ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR TO MEET WITH CHANCE, OLDENBOOM, AND OTHERS TO PRESENT ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSAL. I TOLD PHILIPS I WOULD CHECK AND LET HIM KNOW.

3. ACCORDINGLY WHEN CHANCE CALLED (PARA 1) I TOOK THE OCCASION TO THANK HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS, AND TO ASK HIM TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND ON THE SUBJECT, PENDING A MEETING AT AN EARLY DATE WITH THE NEW
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DIRECTOR AND OTHERS, INCLUDING MYSELF, AT WHICH TIME, ADDITIONAL

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE DEA MOVE COULD BE PRESENTED. CHANCE SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO SEE THE DEA OFFICIALS AND WOULD KEEP AN OPEN MIND. HOWEVER HE OFFERED NO ENCOURAGEMENT.

4. COMMENT: I DO NOT REGARD PRESENT PROSPECTS AS ENCOURAGING. IN DISCUSSION MENTIONED PARA 2, I GAVE PHILIPS MY OWN IDEAS AS TO POSSIBLE RPT POSSIBLE SOURCES OF GNA OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL. IN MY CONSIDERED OPINION A FORMAL REQUEST TO GNA AT THIS TIME WOULD BE TURNED DOWN. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WOULD PROBABLY DO NO HARM TO HAVE THE NEW DIRECTOR TALK WITH THE MINISTER AND PRESENT ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSAL. THE MINISTER, HAVING CANVASSED HIS COLLEAGUES VIEWS, COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, AND DEA MIGHT GET AN IDEA OF WHAT IT IS UP AGAINST HERE. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THE ADDITIONAL MATERIAL PRESENTED IN PARA 1 REF B WOULD NOT APPEAR TO ME TO BE DECISIVELY CONVINCING, SINCE I AM SURE GNA ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH FACTS AND FIGURES GIVEN.

5. I BELIEVE SOMETHING IN NATURE OF QUID PRO QUO MIGHT BE CONSIDERED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, DURING CALL ON GOVERNOR LEITO SEPT 7, GOVERNOR MADE EARNEST PRESENTATION ON SUBJECT OF U.S. GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE TO GNA, IF NA IS TO REMAIN FREE OF VENEZUELAN (OR WORSE--CUBAN) INFLUENCE. AMONG POSSIBILITIES MENTIONED WERE SMALL COAST GUARD TYPE CRAFT (UNDER NA FLAG), POSSIBLY OTHER EQUIPMENT, AND TRAINING WHICH MIGHT ASSIST GNA WITH ITS SMUGGLING AND NARCOTICS PROBLEMS. I AM OF COURSE UNABLE JUDGE FEASIBILITY OR DESIRABILITY ANY SUCH ASSISTANCE; I MERELY REPORT IT AS INDICATION THINKING ONE SEGMENT OF GNA.

6. BELIEVE BEST NEXT COURSE OF ACTION IS EARLY MEETING WITH MINISTER CHANCE PER PARA 3, AFTER WHICH DEA OFFICIALS WILL BE IN BEST POSITION DECIDE ON FOLLOW UP.

7. POST POSITION ON PROPOSAL REMAINS AS OUTLINED REF B. IN THIS CONNECTION SUBPARAS 1 B AND C REF A, AND DEPARLMENT'S VIEWS PARA 2 REF A HELPFUL, AND DULY NOTED.
HANSON

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